## GUIDELINES FOR NAVY AVIATION SQUADRON LINEAGE PROGRAM AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES

1.  These guidelines establish a lineage policy for Navy aviation squadrons in order to eliminate confusion and ensure consistency.  The Navy has not had a formal policy for squadron designations and lineage since the establishment of squadron designations in the early 1920s. Chapter 1 of reference (a) provides a historical treatise on the evolution of squadron designations.

2.  The terms applicable to understanding squadron lineage are as follows:

**Establishment**:  A squadron's lineage and history begins on the date it is established and assigned a letter designation (such as HS, VF, VFA, VP, VS, etc.) and a number.

**Redesignation**:  A squadron may be redesignated and assigned a new designation, such as VA-67, which was later redesignated VA-15 and then VFA-15.  The history of VFA-15 begins the day it was established as VA-67 and includes the period during its VA-15 designation.

**Deactivation**:  A squadron may be deactivated by reassigning its personnel and equipment and placing it in an inactive status.  The designation remains on Naval Aviation's record of inactive squadrons until it is reactivated and becomes an active operating unit.

**Reactivation**:  A squadron may be reactivated from Naval Aviation's inactive record and placed in active operational service, assigning new personnel and equipment.  When a squadron is reactivated, it must use the last designation it was assigned prior to deactivation.  The history of this reactivated squadron may be traced using the lineage of the squadron prior to its deactivation.  To preclude confusion surrounding the reactivation of a squadron, a squadron cannot be reactivated and redesignated on the same day.

Note:  Squadrons do not receive commissioning pennants when they are established.  Hence, the terms commission and decommission generally refer only to ships.

3.  Background on how squadron designations are tracked by the Assistant for Aviation History and Publications (N88H).

a.  In concert with the definitions listed in paragraph 2, once a squadron letter and number have been assigned to a squadron, that letter and number combination can never be assigned to another squadron.  As an example, VFA-15 was established as VA-67 on 1 August 1968.  It was redesignated VA-15 on 2 June 1969 and then redesignated VFA-15 on 1 October 1986.  Hence, the letter and number combination of VA-67, VA-15 or VFA-15 may never be used by another squadron.  If VFA-15 is deactivated, it can only be reactivated and placed in an active status by using the VFA-15 designation.  Another squadron cannot be reactivated as VA-67 or VA-15 since these designations belong to VFA-15.

b.  When a squadron is deactivated, the designation and approved insignia used by the squadron are placed on the Naval Aviation Inactive Record.  The insignia used by the squadron is also retired and remains with the history of that deactivated squadron.  A newly established or redesignated squadron cannot adopt the insignia of a deactivated unit.

c.  The history of a deactivated squadron will be held in the records of the Director, Air Warfare's Assistant for Aviation History and Publications (CNO(N88H)).

4.  The baseline for the new policy on squadron designations is the  current squadron lineage list in enclosure (2).  These squadron letter and number combinations may never be used or assigned to another squadron.  All previous squadron designations used by the Navy from the early 1920s to 1997, excluding those in enclosure (2), may be used for the establishment of any new squadrons.

5.  Approval Procedure for Assignment of Navy Aviation Squadron Designations

a.  Any Navy aviation command responsible for establishing, redesignating or activating a squadron must contact the Director, Air Warfare Division, Assistant for Naval Aviation History and Publications (CNO(N88H)) and request a record review to ensure the squadron letter-number combination has not been assigned to a squadron or is not on the Naval Aviation Squadron Inactive List.  If the designation meets that criteria it will be approved for use by the requesting authority, and a permanent record of the designation will be maintained by CNO (N88H).  All squadron designations must be officially approved by CNO (N88H) prior to being assigned to a unit.  This includes reserve squadrons as well as active operating forces.

b.  Initial verification of a particular squadron designation should be directed to the Assistant for Naval Aviation History and Publications (CNO(N88H)) at

(202) 433-4355 or DSN 288-4355. Once a verbal agreement is made regarding the squadron designation, CNO (N88H) will send a formal letter approving the use of that squadron designation.

6. The Marine Corps Aviation Squadron Lineage Program is maintained by Commandant Marine Corps, Code HDH-2 (Marine Corps History and Museums Division), which follows a policy similar to the one established by this instruction.